

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JACK CLOUTHIER

MAY 24, 1984

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: Petawawa Village and Township Union Library

FAMILY HISTORY:

Jack's father, John, was born in Pembroke and moved to Black Bay in the 1920s. John had seven brothers and one sister. He did not attend school.

John Clouthier participated on square timber drives on the Petawawa River, and during the late 1800s (1890s), until the years preceding World War I, he worked for J.R. Booth, cutting logs and working with the pointer boats (which were approximately 8 feet wide and 40 - 45 feet long). He worked on both branches of the Petawawa River, while his wife stayed at home. Cutting started in the early fall and continued into the winter. During the winter, the logs were skidded to the river, and in spring they were dumped into the river. The log drives actually began during "spring breakup," and generally lasted for 3 months (March - May).

The men stayed in the bush during the work term, coming home only for Christmas and returning to work until the spring. Once again there was a short break which lasted until the ice on the water started to break up. The men returned to work immediately, making necessary repairs on their pointer boats for the upcoming log drive.

During WWI (1914 - 1919), John then worked in the military camp. He also was a "jobber," cutting box wood (rather knotty wood) for the Box Company in Pembroke. He worked on Crown Land, hauling the "box wood" with horses to the box cars. The wood was piled by hand into the cars, destined for Pembroke. At that time, the men were paid about \$1.35 for each cord of wood which was 4 feet long and 8 feet wide.

Jack Clouthier was born on December 21, 1903 in Black Bay, where he also attended public school. Jack also attended school at Petawawa Point. He was one of twelve children.

WORK: At the age of 15, Jack worked in a cookhouse on the military camp. Following his father's footsteps, he then worked in the lumber industry on the Quebec side. In 1930, Jack worked for Canadian Industries Limited as a lead burner in sulphuric acid plants, in Sudbury and Hamilton. He returned to Petawawa in 1944, and worked for the Forestry Branch in Chalk River, doing maintenance work, and working on the fire towers for three years. In 1960, Jack retired.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Jack has two children, a daughter in Richmond Hill, and his son Richard who lives in Warner, British Columbia. Jack is extremely active, and enjoys step dancing (which he learned at home since his father step danced as well) as well as square dancing, a favorite form of entertainment in his youth.

At the age of 59, Jack participated in a film called "Weather and Smoke,"¹¹ produced by the National Film Board of Montreal. He has this film at home, and enjoys showing it to interested viewers. Mr. Clouthier also has a peavey pole that was used in the early lumbering days in Petawawa.

Mr. Clouthier remembers many things of historical significance:

- Mr. Herb Selkirk had one of the first cars in Petawawa
- many families in Petawawa were loggers
- most of the early German settlers were farmers
- early settlers included the Bogards (lived right across from the Point), Ida Silke (a maid for the Bogards who married Bill "Willie" Paquette no farming took place in Black Bay
- work was sought in Petawawa